



U.S. House of Representatives Committee on the Judiciary

F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr., Chairman

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News Advisory

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Contact: Jeff Lungren/Terry Shawn
202-225-2492

House Approves Strong and Effective Child Protection Legislation

President Expected to Sign Thursday the “Most Important Child Protection Legislation of the Last 25 Years”

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The House today by voice vote approved strong and effective child protection legislation sponsored by House Judiciary Committee Chairman F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr. (R-Wis.). Because the Senate last week passed this same version of H.R. 4472, President Bush Thursday is expected to sign what has been described as the “most important child protection legislation of the last 25 years.”

Chairman Sensenbrenner said, “This legislation defends children and other victims from sexual predators lurking in our communities. We have over a half million sex offenders in the United States. More than 100,000 of them are ‘missing,’ with locations unknown to the public and law enforcement. By requiring national registration obligations, regular updates, frequent in-person verification, and providing tough and targeted criminal penalties, we intend to make one thing clear to sex offenders across this country – you better register, and you better keep the information current, or you are going to jail. This legislation also will also utilize the United States Marshals Service in assisting States to hunt down ‘missing’ sex offenders.”

Highlights of H.R. 4472, the “Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006”

Improving Sex Offender Registration

- ☐ The Amie Zyla Act – expands State sex offender registration and notification programs to include certain juvenile, tribal, military, foreign and other sex offense convictions

- ☐ Adopts strict requirements that States register sex offenders, keep information current, and immediately share information with other jurisdictions as to where a sex offender resides, works and is employed
- ☐ Adds important information to sex offender registries, mandates collection of DNA from sex offenders, and increases frequency of in-person verification of sex offender information
- ☐ Increases the time period for sex offenders to remain on the registry and requires States to maintain an Internet site with sex offender information
- ☐ Authorizes the creation of the Dru Sjodin National Sex Offender Public Website
- ☐ Expands public notification requirements for sex offender registration and changes in registration to include law enforcement, each jurisdiction in which a sex offender works, lives or attends school, background check agencies, social service agencies, volunteer organizations and any other entity that request notification
- ☐ Authorizes Sex Offender Management Assistance Grants to States and local governments to implement the new sex offender requirement
- ☐ Authorizes a pilot program for electronic monitoring of sex offenders

Criminal Enhancements and Law Enforcement Resources to Protect Children

- ☐ Creates new Federal felony crime for sex offenders who fail to register or update their registration information, with a possible punishment of 10 years in jail, and a mandatory minimum of five years if the sex offender commits a crime of violence while not registered
- ☐ Authorizes United States Marshals Service to apprehend “missing” (unregistered) sex offenders
- ☐ Creates new Office within the Justice Department to monitor and track sex offenders and authorizes Project Safe Childhood program
- ☐ Prohibits Internet sales of date rape drugs
- ☐ Adopts stiff penalties for killing or violent attacks of children – death penalty for murder and mandatory minimum of 25 years for kidnapping or maiming a child, and a mandatory minimum of 10 years for causing serious bodily injury to a child or using a weapon to attack a child

- ☐ Establishes tough 30-year mandatory minimum penalties for having sex with a child under 12 or sexually assaulting a child between 13 and 17
- ☐ Increases mandatory minimum penalties for coercing or enticing a child to have sex, transporting a child to engage in criminal sexual activity, sexual exploitation of a child, and sex trafficking of children
- ☐ Eliminates statute of limitations for sexual offenses against a child
- ☐ Adds abuse and neglect of Indian children as a federal criminal offense
- ☐ Reforms federal civil commitment laws and authorizes grants to States to implement civil commitment programs to protect against dangerous sex offenders
- ☐ Amends immigration laws to make failure to register a deportable offense and bars convicted sex offenders from having family-based petitions approved

Protecting Children from the Internet - The INTERNET Safety Act

- ☐ Creates new criminal offense against child exploitation enterprises and punishes members of enterprise with mandatory minimum of 20 years incarceration
- ☐ Adopts a 10-year consecutive mandatory penalty for any sex offender who commits a sexual offense, crime of violence or other specified offense against a child
- ☐ Creates new criminal penalty for embedding words or images in source code of a website to deceive children into viewing obscene material
- ☐ Authorizes additional prosecutors and computer forensics to prosecute child exploitation and child sex abuse cases
- ☐ Enacts Masha's Law to expand civil remedies for sexual offenses against children

Preventing Child Exploitation and Stopping Child Pornography

- ☐ Improves record-keeping requirements and inspection regimes to any person or entity that produces pornography to ensure that children are not used or exploited in such depictions
- ☐ Authorizes civil and criminal asset forfeiture in child exploitation and obscenity cases
- ☐ Prohibits the production of obscene materials as well as the transportation, distribution and sale

Grants and Other Programs to Protect and Help Children

- ☐ Authorizes grants to combat sexual abuse of children, crime prevention campaign, fingerprinting of children, and assistance in prosecution of sexual crime cases using DNA evidence
- ☐ Authorizes grants for Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network, and children's online safety awareness and safety programs
- ☐ Creates national registry of substantiated cases of child abuse
- ☐ Directs GAO to study use of drivers' license registration process as an additional sex offender registration requirement.

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